

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 00563 281750Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 /098 W
-----014499 282213Z /64

R 281712Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 212
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS MONTREAL 563

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: THE PETERING-OUT OF A POLL

REF: A) MONTREAL 534, B) MONTREAL 491, C) MONTREAL 463

1. DIMANCHE MATIN POLL (REFTELS) WHICH BEGAN WITH A BANG ENDED
WITH A WHIMPER. FINAL INSTALLMENT DEALT WITH ONLY TWO SUBJECTS: THE
PEPIN-ROBARTS COMMISSION ON CANADIAN UNITY, ABOUT WHICH THE PUBLIC
IS SINGULARLY UNINFORMED, AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT, ABOUT WHICH IT
IS NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC.

2. QUESTIONS DEALING WITH THE COMMISSION WERE:

(A) QUESTION: HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE PEPIN-ROBARTS COMMISSION?

TOTAL
(N-714)
YES 52.7
NO 43.0
NO OPNION 4.3
TOTAL 100.0
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PAGE 02 MONTRE 00563 281750Z

(B) QUESTION: IN YOUR OPINION, THE PEPIN-ROBARTS
COMMISSION IS INVESTIGATING: ORGANIZED CRIME,
CANADIAN UNITY, THE RCMP?

YES (HAVE HEARD CANADIAN UNITY 46.0 PERCENT
ABOUT THE

COMMISSION) RCMP OR
(52.7 PERCENT) ORGANIZED CRIME 21.5 PERCENT

CANNOT IDENTIFY
ANY OF THE THREE
SUGGESTED CHOICES 32.5 PERCENT
TOTAL 100.0 PERCENT

3. THE ACCOMPANYING TEXT STATES THAT THE YOUNG (18-24) WERE LEAST FAMILIAR WITH THE COMMISSION (33.6 PERCENT) WHEREAS 59.2 PERCENT OF THOSE 35-44 CLAIMED TO KNOW OF IT. SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, FEWER ANGLOPHONES (47.2 PERCENT) KNEW OF THE COMMISSION THAN FRANCOPHONES (54.3 PERCENT). THE RATION WAS GREATER BETWEEN MEN (60.5 PERCENT) AND WOMEN (45.8 PERCENT). COMMENT: WE DO NOT FIND THE OVERALL UNFAMILIARITY WITH OR CONFUSION ABOUT THIS COMMISSION VERY SURPRISING. QUEBEC IS OVER-RUN WITH COMMISSIONS (DIONNE ON ORGANIZED CRIME, KEABLE ON SINS OF THE MOUNTIES) AND UNITY GROUPS (AT LEAST SIX FAIRLY MAJOR ONES). THEIR MULTIPLICITY ALONE WOULD "TURN OFF" ALL BUT THE MOST DEVOTED STUDENTS OF POLITICS.

4. THE SYNDICALISM QUESTION WAS: ONE HEARS A LOT OF TALK ABOUT SYNDICATES AND THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY. WOULD YOU SAY THAT IN QUEBEC THE SYNDICATES PLAY A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE ROLE?

TOTAL 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65 PLUS
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PAGE 03 MONTRE 00563 281750Z

	(N-714)	(N-113)	(N-209)	(N-157)	(N-98)	(N-74)	(N-63)
POSITIVE	36.4	44.2	41.1	35.0	33.7	36.5	14.3
NEGATIVE	38.7	38.1	40.2	41.4	33.7	32.4	42.9
NEITHER	9.9	6.2	8.6	8.9	16.3	9.5	14.3
NO OPINION	15.0	11.5	10.1	14.7	16.3	21.6	28.5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

COMMENT: EACH LINE SHOWS DECREASING POSITIVISM WITH INCREASING AGE.

5. THE POLL WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A "PUTTING THE BEST FACE ON IT" INTERVIEW WITH PEQUISTE MNA JEAN-FRANCOIS BERTRAND, PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANT TO THE PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER. IN BRIEF, HE AVERRED THE POLL HAS "PROVOKED A VERY HEALTHY REFLECTION" AMONG THE GOVERNING DEPUTIES AND, FAR FROM BEING A SOURCE OF DISCOURAGEMENT, HAS PERMITTED THEM TO BECOME MORE PRECISE ABOUT FUTURE DIRECTIONS. IT HAS HELPED THEM TO REALIZE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT GET SO FAR AHEAD OF PUBLIC OPINION THAT THE LOCOMOTIVE BECOMES DETACHED FROM THE TRAIN. COMMENT: WE WOULD THINK EVERYONE, INCLUDING AND PERHAPS PARTICULARLY OPPONENTS TO THE REGIME, WOULD CHEER ANY SUCH EFFECT. A BREATHING SPELL FROM

MORE THAN A YEAR'S TENSIONS WOULD BE WELCOME TO ALL.
HARPER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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